

The Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

Business Office 116 E. Main Street
 Washington Bureau—517 E. Main Street
 Manchester Bureau—1103 E. Main Street
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BY MAIL. One Six Three One
 POSTAGE PAID. Year. Mo. Mo. Mo.
 Daily with Sunday... \$6.00 \$1.50 \$1.50
 Daily without Sunday... 4.00 1.00 1.00
 Sunday edition only... 2.00 1.00 1.00
 Weekly (Wednesday)... 1.00 1.00 1.00

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs), Manchester and Petersburg.
 One Week One Year.
 Daily with Sunday... 14 cents \$6.50
 Daily without Sunday... 10 cents 4.50
 Sunday only... 5 cents 2.50
 (Yearly subscriptions payable in advance.)
 Entered January 21, 1908, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter, under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1908.

The man who ridicules romance is the most romantic of men.—Kenta.

STUART'S MANLY LETTER.

If the Rhea investigation accomplishes nothing more, it will be worth all the time and pains it has cost to have brought to the attention of the State and the Union the letter which Henry C. Stuart wrote to B. T. Wilson and others, protesting against throwing out Republican returns from certain precincts in the Ninth District. In the congressional election of 1902, the letter is a refreshment and should be given the widest possible circulation. It is a tribute to Virginia manhood and to honest Democracy. Mr. Stuart first cited the fact that the Constitutional Convention had removed every pretext for dishonesty in elections, and let it be known that he would not stand for trickery in any form. There is nothing in the letter which has the slightest flavor of boastful integrity or pharisaism. There is no show of stilted indignation, no hollow-thunder explosions. There is not even an accusation. The letter is rather in the nature of a plea, addressed to his neighbors and fellow-Democrats, for simple honesty.

It is the letter of a man who has a deep sense of his personal responsibility for the honor of his party, for the honor of his State, and especially for the honor of his own county and countymen.

"It is beneath the dignity of our county," said he, "to submit itself for one moment to the process of being juggled with for partisan advantages." And therefore, "In all friendliness, and, in fact, with a deep interest, not only in your gentlemen, personally, as your friends, but as a Democrat, and above all, as a well-wisher for my country and my people, I implore you not to take a step, no matter how great the temptation, which will not be endorsed by fair-minded men of this section."

No man deserves to be praised for being honest, and it would be an affront to any person of Mr. Stuart's character to be extolled in such a connection. The Times-Dispatch has no such intention. Our purpose in giving the letter publicity and in drawing attention to it is to emphasize the fact that Mr. Stuart, in a private letter, not written for publication, expressed the sentiment of the body politic of Virginia. The people of this State are opposed to all forms of dishonesty, trickery and juggling in their elections, and are determined that every ballot honestly cast shall be honestly returned, no matter what issue may be in the balance, no matter what personal or party interest may be involved. Mr. Stuart is no exception, but a type.

INSPECTION OF STATE BANKS.

The State of Virginia needs a better banking law and a Bureau of Banking with an examiner and such assistants as may be necessary to make regular inspections of all State corporations, firms or individuals engaged in any form of banking business in the Commonwealth. It is true that under the present law chartered banks are required to make statements to the Corporation Commission at such times as the rules of the commission may prescribe, and the commission is required to inspect the banks at least once a year. But with its multitudinous duties, the Corporation Commission cannot give the attention to this branch of its work that the importance of the subject and the public interest demand.

This was foreseen by the framers of the Constitution, and hence it is provided in section 155 that the General Assembly may establish within the Corporation Commission department, and subject to its supervision and control, subordinate divisions, or bureaus of insurance, banking or other special branches of the business of that department. The Insurance Bureau has already been created under this provision, and the time has now come for a Bureau of Banking. Such a department properly officered and operated would tend to strengthen public confidence in our State banks and to increase deposits, and it would give depositors protection against weak or fraudulent banks to which they are fairly entitled.

The banking law should be further amended so as to require all concerns or individuals, whether operating under a charter or not, which receive money on deposit and transact a bank-

ing business in any form, to submit to inspection and to make statements to the Bureau of Banking as often, and in the same manner, as the statements of chartered banks are made.

Banking is a peculiar business. When men lend money to one another they require security; when they deposit it in bank, they lend it on faith, and it is the duty of the State to use due diligence in seeing to it as far as it may, that the bank does not abuse its trust. A modern Bureau of Banking would be a protection to the public and a benefit to every honest bank in the State.

NO PERENNIAL LEAF-YEAR.

From the Baltimore News we learn that Congressman Bode, of Minnesota, in the intervals of making laws to guide his country and pursuing messages from his President, has declared for the eternal leaf-year. The Congressman feels that his sex is less than 30 so at negotiating matrimonial alliances. They have been at it 2,000 years, he says—why he omits the 50, 100 or 100,000 years preceding is not clear—and the gist of their story is the over-worked divorce court. He feels, accordingly, that they might arrange these matters better, not in France, but in the hair-combing solitude of the morning boudoir.

If Mr. Bode is meditating a law embodying these hypocritical views of his, we beg him to desist. If he pushes ahead, in despite of this request, we trust that his bill will obtain a very cold reception from Hon. Joe Cannon, of Illinois, the law-making body of the United States. The Bode theory will not work at all. First, there are the women. They have one year out of every four to propose to men, as it is, and they never do it. We know several excellent fellows who have been waiting forty years and upwards, perfect Bachelors, for some lady, or rather any lady, to put the question. They have waited vainly, and so they will wait to their graves. Second, there are the men. Men woo because they have to, not because they want to. Unlike women, they do not love along the lines indicated by somebody else's courting. Suppose a man, in love with the lady of his fancy, were wooed and proposed to, willy nilly, by another. What could he do? If he accepted her, he would ruin his life and possibly the other lady's. If he refused her, imagining it were possible for a gentleman to do such a thing—he would certainly cry; and that, to many men, is the most dreadful calamity that fate can send.

Come to think of it, the Bode propaganda is futile and absurd, whether it makes it into a law or not. Women, too, philosophers tell us, do not fall in love with men. They fall in love with love. If no love were offered them to fall in love with, as ruthless Bode suggests, there would be nothing at all for them to fall in love with; and soon the human race would perish miserably from the earth.

GIVE US A BOARD OF CHARITIES. It was Governor Swanson who recommended the appointment of a commissioner to inspect the jails and almshouses of the State, and it is hardly fair to say that the Folkes bill, which the author suggested before the Legislature convened, is a bill to make a job for some office-seeker. The Times-Dispatch was at first rather favorably impressed with the suggestion, but upon further reflection, we are opposed to the substitution of a commissioner for the proposed State Board of Charities. Dr. William F. Drewry and others who have given the question intelligent study favor the board, and they have the experience of other States to guide them.

A State Board of Charities would be a dignified body of men, laboring for the good of humanity without pay, and it would carry with it an influence that no paid commissioner could possibly exert, no matter how good a man he might be. These boards have been tried in numerous States and have proven themselves to be most useful. They now exist in New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, North Carolina, Michigan, Connecticut, Nebraska, Indiana, South Dakota, Colorado, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Missouri, California, Wyoming, Montana and the District of Columbia. "The influence which they exert," says Dr. Josiah Strong, "while almost entirely a moral one, is shown by experience to be both efficient and useful."

Why discard a system, which has been tried and proven, for a doubtful experiment? ARKANSAW ON ROOSEVELT. Only one man has intimated that he would rather like to have written Mr. Roosevelt's special message to Congress, and that man is Senator Davis, of Arkansas. All other men, and especially all Republican men, seem satisfied to have the authorship rest where it is. Only Davis seems envious. "He has out-Davided Jeff Davis," he hypothesizes, as one who speaks of out-generals Napoleon, or out-writing Shakespeare, and he confesses that if the document had been laid before the Arkansas Legislature a little while back, all would have declared that none other could have written it than Davis's self.

Senator Davis finds the message "a splendid public document." Yet with kindly, but firm modesty, he flatly denies the rumor that he helped to write it. The document proves, he thinks, that President Roosevelt is "far ahead of his party," that he is the "greatest President the Republic has ever put in the White House," and that he has at last caught up with Mr. Bryan by swiping the rest of his clothes. It further proves that Mr. Roosevelt will be a candidate to succeed himself because "it will be put up to him in such a manner" that he cannot refuse—this being precisely the view, we believe, that Senator Jonathan Bourne has bruited about the country all along. And lastly it proves, in the commentator's own words, that "I'll have to come back again with another

speech that will stir up the Senate and the people."

This last is the real and pressing peril of the situation. Mr. Roosevelt has been forgiven much, but if he has now been the means of removing the cork from the Davis bazoo, he may find that he has alienated the last of his friends.

THE COOKE AMENDMENT.

The bill offered by Delegate M. T. Cooke, of Norfolk, amending section 523 of the Code, which forbids Councilmen and other officials to contract with a city government, seems to us to remedy the defects of the present act, and to prevent any evasion of it by indirection. Mr. Cooke's bill should by all means be passed. If not the law had better be repealed, for under a recent court decision it would be more abused than ever and would do far more harm than good.

The Washington Herald refers to The Times-Dispatch as "the paper that organized the Paragraphers' Union, and is now sorry for it." The Louisville Courier-Journal, with Washington direction, stings us one as "the self-appointed censor" of other people's columns. Both contemporaries are hereby bidden to get out. In the first place, we are extremely pleased that we had a hand in organizing the Union, and in the second place, we should no more think of venturing to censor one of Mr. Waterson's three-column paragraphs, single-handed, than we should attempt to surprise and spank the German army.

And such is fame. The New York Mail reprints part of Swinburne's "Triumph of Time," with the signature, "Author Unknown." We pass this on to the New York Times, and hope that it will thankfully embrace the chance to get square with the Mail for its remarks in the unfortunate little "John Temple Grey" affair.

"When an Assyrian girl takes a husband," declared New Haven's contemporary, "don't speak for three days." That custom, introduced into this country, would all but have condemned Lillian Russell to a lifetime of silence.

According to the Washington Herald, Massachusetts county has raised the price of marriage licenses from 50 cents to \$1 apiece. This is the first body-blow at international marriages that the American people have yet struck.

The New York World, having failed to persuade W. J. Bryan to retire, and despairing of learning what a Democrat is, is now bending its energies to the great task of persuading John D. Rockefeller's father was a bigamist.

On Monday, the Pullman Company distributed \$174,850 among 3,770 porters and conductors, thereby doing voluntarily about what is expected of the average porter on a trip from New York to San Francisco.

John Wesley Gaines's secretary has fallen heir to \$50,000. This, however, is a little pittance to the man who has fallen heir to some of the most gorgeous lingo ever emitted from the human larynx.

Japan is besieging the United States grimly on the Paris boulevards, but fearless old Richmond has not even unlimbered a popgun along the defenses of the banks of the James.

At the hour of going to press the apology patently due to H. Thaw from the State of New York had not yet been received by the Matteawan warden.

We know of few overworked clerks, earning six weeks and fighting the cost of living with all four feet, who would care to swap jobs with Dom Manuel II.

The President having omitted to mention any names, we shall just go ahead on the assumption that his "sinister offenders" are merely the malefactors of great wealth for 1908.

Ninety-eight cigarette-smoking students have been dropped from Stanford University on account of poor scholarship.

If you must smoke tobacco, chew.

Another peculiarly unfortunate thing about this latest presidential document was that it knocked the padlock off the J. Davis labials.

Mayor McClellan having vetoed Little Tim Sullivan's burning bill of rights, New York ladies are now free to smoke in public, in private, or in Brooklyn.

The low price of wooden loaves might well excite the interest of Philander C. Knox, who, as we understand it, is extremely anxious to pass a given point.

Senator Aldrich has reported his bill, notes a contemporary. We wish some one would report it to the authorities.

Tom Lawson's sudden conviction that the American people didn't think very much of him reduces the last possibility of a hung jury.

General Groves says that "the devil could get 163 electoral votes on the Democratic ticket." Well, let him prove it.

When the New York Mail speaks of the Barks Club we take it that it means the Republican party.

FARM DEMONSTRATION.

Schools of instruction to be held at several places.

Mr. T. O. Sandy, director of farm demonstration work in this State, will hold next week Farmers' Schools of instruction next week. The places are: "Farm Manures," Prof. D. N. Barrow, Washington, D. C.

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 To guard my merit and forgive my blame,
 Now I face Future with a fearless
 What Fortune sends I'll take without
 Let sorrows flood me—I will bear the brunt
 Let joys be few—I'll find my all in
 her!

When days are cloudy, how her kind
 way flings
 A strengthening peacefulness like
 of moon-made pi
 When lightens darkest, what good
 cheer she brings!
 When life's at lowest, how she lifts
 me up!
 Her simple faith, her loyal tireless
 These touch me when I meet her
 warm, black look;
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 I'll "bless the day that
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 Let joys be few—I'll find my all in
 her!

When days are cloudy, how her kind
 way flings
 A strengthening peacefulness like
 of moon-made pi
 When lightens darkest, what good
 cheer she brings!
 When life's at lowest, how she lifts
 me up!
 Her simple faith, her loyal tireless
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